

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A medical network server for receiving and transmitting information on electric medical charts from/to a plurality of medical institutions through a communication network, comprising:

a patient information storage section storing thereon the information on the electric medical charts including medical records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location information indicating location of each of the medical institutions or addresses of patients;

an incidence rate computing section for computing incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical records and the location information of the plurality of patients;

a spread area identification section for identifying a first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence rate computed by said incidence rate computing section; and

a spread area forecast section for forecasting a second area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

2. (original): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spread area forecast section forecasts the second area based on outbreak history information including the incidence rate of the disease in each of the areas during a plurality of time periods in the past.

3. (original): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spread area forecast section forecasts the second area based on frequency of traffic between the first area and the second area.

4. (original): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an outbreak forecast information storage section storing thereon the outbreak forecast information, wherein

said spread area forecast section forecasts the second area based on the outbreak forecast information stored on said outbreak forecast information storage section.

5. (original): The medical network server as claimed in claim 2, wherein said spread area forecast section further forecasts a time period when the disease will spread in the second area based on the outbreak history information.

6. (original): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a warning section for issuing warning to the medical institution located in the second area forecasted by said spread area forecast section in order to prompt the medical institution located in the second area forecasted by said spread area forecast section to prepare for the spread of the disease in the future.

7. (original): The medical network server as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a medical device indicating section for indicating medical devices required by the medical institution for diagnosis and treatment of the disease to the medical institution.

8. (original): The medical network server as claimed in claim 7, wherein said medical device indicating section further indicates quantity of the medical devices required by the medical institution for diagnosis and treatment of the disease to the medical institutions based on the incidence rate computed by said incidence rate computing section.

9. (original): A medical network system for relaying information on electric medical charts through a communication network, comprising:

a plurality of medical institutions storing therein the electric medical charts; and

a medical network server for receiving and transmitting the information on the electric medical charts from/to the plurality of medical institutions through the communication network, wherein

said medical network server comprises:

a patient information storage section storing thereon the information on the electric medical charts including medical records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location information indicating location of each of the medical institutions or addresses of patients;

an incidence rate computing section for computing incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical records and the location information of the plurality of patients;

a spread area identification section for identifying a first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence rate computed by said incidence rate computing section; and

a spread area forecast section for forecasting a second area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

10. (original): A method of receiving and transmitting information on electric medical charts from/to a plurality of medical institutions through a communication network, comprising steps of:

storing information on the electric medical charts including medical records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location information indicating location of each of the medical institutions or addresses of patients;

computing incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical records and the location information of the plurality of patients;

identifying a first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence rate computed in said incidence rate computing step; and

forecasting a second area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

11. (original): A computer readable medium storing thereon a program for causing a medical network server to receive and transmit information on electric medical charts from/to a plurality of medical institutions through a communication network, the program comprising modules configured to execute steps of:

storing information on the electric medical charts including medical records of a plurality of patients diagnosed by a physician at each of the plurality of medical institutions, and location information indicating location of each of the medical institutions or addresses of patients;

computing incidence rate of a disease in each area based on the medical records and the location information of the plurality of patients;

identifying a first area, where the disease spreads, based on the incidence rate computed in said incidence rate computing step; and

forecasting a second area, related to the first area with respect to the spread of the disease and in which the disease is supposed to spread in the future, based on a relationship between the first area and the second area.

12. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spread area forecast section which forecasts the spread of the disease, bases the forecasting the second area on 1) a frequency of movement of people who are infected with the disease from the first area to the second area, and 2) simulation of how the disease will spread from the first area to the second area.

13. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spread area forecast section forecasts a daily prediction forecast of the second area based on historical incidence rate data for a prior year of the first area and the second area.

14. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, wherein said incidence rate computing section totals a number of patients infected with the disease during a predetermined

time period in each area referring to the information on the electric medical charts stored on said patient information storage section and obtains the incidence rate of the disease in a certain area by dividing the number of patients infected with the disease in the certain area by a total number of the electric medical charts of the plurality of patients in the certain area, stored on said patient information storage section.

15. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a medical institution information storage section which stores addresses of said medical institutions in association; and

a warning section which warns that the disease may spread by sending an e-mail to the addresses stored on said medical institution information storage section in association with the second area forecasted by said spread area forecast section.

16. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a warning section which issues a warning to the medical institutions located in the second area that is forecasted by said spread area forecast section, to prompt the medical institutions to prepare for spread of the disease, by using an address stored on said medical institution information storage section in association with the area forecasted by said spread area forecast section.

17. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a medical device indicating section which attaches information to an e-mail to the medical institutions indicating a quantity of medical devices required and the medical devices

required by the medical institutions for the diagnosis or treatment of the disease based on the incidence rate computed by said incidence rate computing section and each scale of the medical institutions by attaching information which indicates the required medical devices to an e-mail.

18. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 6, wherein the warning is automatically generated based on a daily prediction forecast of the second area.

19. (new): The medical network server as claimed in claim 7, wherein the medical device indicating section automatically generates a list of the medical devices to be included with the warning.

20. (new): The method of receiving and transmitting information on the electric medical charts from/to the plurality of medical institutions through the communication network as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of issuing a warning to the plurality of medical institutions located in the forecasted second area.